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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

2430 E STREET NW.
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11 September 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
SECRETARY OF WAR
✓ SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
✓ PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT ON NIA

Subject: National Security Act of 1947

1. Upon the coming into effect of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Intelligence Authority automatically ceases to exist and the Central Intelligence Agency comes under the National Security Council. Inasmuch as no date has been set for a meeting of the National Security Council to carry on the work of the National Intelligence Authority, the following suggestions and recommendations are made:

a. At the first meeting of the National Security Council, it is recommended that all directives of the National Intelligence Authority and the Central Intelligence Group be continued in full force and effect until the National Security Council has had an opportunity to study the problem and to make amendments and changes that they may consider desirable.

b. In order that the National Security Council make an early approach to this problem, it is recommended that the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency be directed to submit, within sixty days, his proposal for National Security Council directives to bring former directives of the National Intelligence Authority and the Central Intelligence Group into line with the National Security Act of 1947.

c. In consideration of the size of the National Security Council, as compared to the National Intelligence Authority, it is recommended that a subcommittee be established to act similarly to the National Intelligence Authority to furnish the active direction of the Central Intelligence Agency. This subcommittee should be composed of a minimum number of members and, as a suggestion, could be either the Secretary of State and the Secretary of National Defense, or the Secretary of State, Secretary of National Defense, and the three Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force. Personally, I believe the first suggestion is better since the Secretary of State has equal representation with the military. If the second suggestion is followed, there may be some complaints from State that the military is overshadowing them.

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2. The Director of the Central Intelligence Group sat as a non-voting member of the National Intelligence Authority, and, while I believe it presumptuous and awkward on my part to suggest that he so sit with the National Security Council, still it would be of utmost assistance if he could attend all meetings of the National Security Council in some capacity, either as observer, counsel or advisor, in order to keep informed of what the thoughts of the National Security Council may be. In addition, by being present, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency would also be available for such direct questions as may be propounded.

3. If you will indicate your approval or disapproval of the suggestions and recommendations above, I shall go ahead and have formal statements prepared to be furnished to the National Security Council at its first meeting.


R. H. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1. Forwarded herewith is my recommendation to the National Security Council in connection with implementation of the National Security Act of 1947 on assumption by the Council of its functions. I feel these recommendations are within my prerogative to make and are required to maintain continuity of Central Intelligence functions. There are set forth below two further suggestions which may be outside my prerogative but which would, I feel, be of sufficient importance to bring to the attention of the Council for its early consideration.

(a) Active direction was given to the Central Intelligence Group by the four voting members of the National Intelligence Authority. The National Security Act of 1947 sets forth the duties of the ~~National~~ ^{Central} Intelligence Agency and specifically that that they are to be performed under the direction of the National Security Council. It is felt that the size of the National Security Council would prevent the detailed direction by it, as a body, so necessary to the proper conduct of the National Intelligence mission. It is suggested that such direction would be better afforded by the establishment of a sub-committee of the National Security Council to consist of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of National Defense. This sub-committee would act in the name of the National Security Council

2- Memo for the Executive Secretary

in matters relating to the functions of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(b) The Director of Central Intelligence sat as a non-voting member of the National Intelligence Authority and found this relationship most useful to the proper performance of his duties. The Central Intelligence Agency is by law under and not a part of the National Security Council, and the Director of Central Intelligence should not participate in the policy decisions of the Council. It is felt however, that his presence at Council meetings in a purely advisory capacity, would continue a practice heretofore useful to his mission and one which it is felt would be of assistance to the Council in its consideration of problems affected by foreign intelligence.

H. R. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Subject: National Security Act of 1947

1. The National Security Act of 1947 established a Central Intelligence Agency under the National Security Council. Section 102-D of the Act sets forth the basic functions of that agency to be performed under the direction of the National Security Council. Effective when the Director of Central Intelligence takes office, the National Intelligence Authority is abolished and the personnel, property, records and funds of the Central Intelligence Group are transferred to the Agency. On that date therefore, the Agency will be prepared to perform its statutory functions, but will be without direction from the National Security Council as specified by the Act. The following recommendations are therefore submitted for consideration by the National Security Council at its first meeting:

(a) ~~It is recommended~~ that all directives of the National Intelligence Authority to the Central Intelligence Group be continued in full force and effect ~~including specifically the authorizations establishing the Intelligence Advisory Board, not provided for in the Act, in its present form to advise the Director of Central Intelligence on all intelligence matters.~~ The Agency will function under this authorization until specifically repealed, altered or argued by the National Security Council, or changed in accordance with the recommendation in paragraph (b) below.

- 2 -

(b) ~~It is recommended~~ that the National Security Council direct the Director of Central Intelligence to submit to the Council within sixty days, proposed authorizations supplanting the former directives of the National Intelligence Authority and specifying his functions and those of the Central Intelligence Agency in accordance with the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947.

H. R. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence